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Population and Migration

- Problems in Eugenics. Papers Communicated to the First International Eugenics Congress Held at the University of London, July 24th to 30th, 1912.* (London: The Eugenics Education Society. 1912. Pp. xix, 496. 8s. 6d.)
- Heredity and Eugenics.* By W. E. CASTLE, J. M. COULTER, C. B. DAVENPORT, E. M. EAST, and W. L. TOWER. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1912. Pp. vii, 315.)
- Heredity in Relation to Eugenics.* By CHARLES B. DAVENPORT. (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1911. Pp. xi, 298. With 175 illustrations and diagrams, and complete bibliography and index. \$2.00.)
- The Social Direction of Human Evolution.* By WILLIAM E. KEL LICOTT. (New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1911. Pp. xii, 249. \$1.50.)
- The Kallikak Family.* By H. H. GODDARD. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1912. Pp. xv, 121, charts and illustrations. \$1.50.)
- Race Improvement or Eugenics.* By LA REINE HELEN BAKER. (New York: Dodd, Mead and Company. 1912. Pp. 137. \$1.00.)
- The Task of Social Hygiene.* By HAVELOCK ELLIS. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company. 1912. Pp. xv, 414. \$2.50.)

The literature of eugenics is rapidly developing, more rapidly than the "science" itself, in fact. The seven books before us vary greatly in point of view, in scope, and in value, but speaking in general they amply bear witness to the fact that eugenics is in the early, dangerous, stage of enthusiastic imaginings and daring inference, where it needs protection from its friends and where searching criticism from without may do it good and render society some protection.

Judging from the papers presented before the International Eugenics Congress, there is very little agreement, in Europe and America, as to subject-matter and method of theoretical eugenics, and still less as to measures of practical application. While, for instance, sterilization of hopeless defectives has found favor in this country and already been provided for in the statutes of approximately a dozen states, the English will have none of it. And again while the Continental investigators seem on the whole to have confined themselves to the anthropological and demographic

methods, the English, and more especially the Americans, under the leadership of the biologists, have gone ahead rigorously with experimental genetics, and are daringly applying the principles of Mendelian heredity to the interpretation of human evolution. The papers presented at the congress are grouped in four sections, dealing with the relation of biology, sociology, and medicine to eugenics, and with "practical eugenics." Covering so wide a field, it cannot be said that the papers get anywhere, except to indicate in a suggestive way the wide range of interests and forces the eugenicist will have to consider. A few of the papers are really contributive. Especially may be mentioned Raymond Pearl's paper on the inheritance of fecundity, and that of Dr. Weeks' on the inheritance of epilepsy. Bleeker Van Wagenen's report for the Eugenics Section of the American Breeders' Association gives an interesting summary of American legislation and experience in the sterilization of defectives. The English generously kept themselves in the background, their only really serious paper being one by Dr. Mott, pathologist to the London county asylums, on "Heredity and Eugenics in Relation to Insanity," in which the author, unlike many of our American brethren, carefully tries to give due weight to the influence of both heredity and environment in the causation of mental defect. Other papers of interest to the economist are Lucien March's discussion of the fertility of marriages according to professional and social position, and Achille Loria's on the psycho-physical élite and the economic élite. On the whole, the first Eugenics Congress was a good deal of a blunderbus, scattering its fire widely and with uncertain aim. It may, however, be taken as a hopeful indication of more productive coöperation in the future between biologists, sociologists, and medical men. Future eugenics congresses will be in the nature of clearing-houses of knowledge and coördinating centers. It is but the question of a few years before the economists will have to make their contribution, and already, in the general ideal of conserving human energy, which should be perhaps *the* economics ideal, the eugenics idea is so important, in promise, that economists cannot afford to ignore it.

The next three titles are from biologists. The book by Castle, Coulter, *et al.* consists of a course of lectures summarizing recent investigations, mostly of an experimental genetic character, into variation, heredity, and evolution in relation to the improvement

of plant, animal, and human strains. The lay reader will find lucid explanations of Mendelian inheritance—without some knowledge of which no one can understand the work now being done in eugenics; but the only chapters dealing directly with eugenics are two by C. B. Davenport, which are reprinted from his *Heredity in Relation to Eugenics*.

Davenport's book may be taken as fairly definitive of the status of eugenics in this country, since the author writes from the authority of official position—the directorship of the Department of Experimental Evolution of the Carnegie Institution and of the Eugenics Record Office, Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island. The meat of the book is chapter 3, on the inheritance of family traits. The greater portion of this consists of a running and more or less superficial survey of the inheritance of a large number of physical defects, many of them of a rare and unimportant nature. In many cases the inheritance of the defect is demonstrated, but in others the evidence offered is extremely meager; the pedigrees sometimes go back but one or two generations and the fraternities are frequently incomplete, leaving the reader with the near-conviction that the data may be misrepresentative, and the “sampling” unscientific. Moreover, when an author pictures a few family trees and thinks that he thereby proves the organic inheritance of such complex characteristics as musical, artistic, and literary ability, mechanical skill, and pauperism, he affords as sad a spectacle of the specialist running amuck out of his course as did ever sociologists in the old palmy days when they were borrowing bodily from biology and uncritically clapping onto social theory theoretical crudities which the scientists themselves had got beyond. Dr. Davenport makes a half-hearted attempt to appraise the influence of environment, but his treatment is flimsy and one might almost say insincere. He is not interested in environmental influence. He sees little but organic inheritance in the causation of human characteristics, in which he is undoubtedly wrong; and he sees no heredity that is not Mendelian, in which, no doubt, he stands good chance of being right. His discussion of the influence of the individual on the race, including the Jukes, the Ismaelites, and the Banker family, is practically worthless because he ignores or overlooks environmental influences, economic and social. His treatment of the significance of migrations is marred in the same way. New York city is the result of the germ plasm of “a band of Dutch traders.” Virginia

was enriched by "a germ plasm which easily developed such traits as good manners, high culture, and the ability to lead in social affairs." New England's abandoned farms "point to a trait in our blood that entices us to move on to reap a possible advantage elsewhere"—similar, one may ask, to the trait "in the blood" of the undersized defectives of South Europe which drives *them* to reap possible advantages on our shores? Surely the economist should follow up this germ plasm clue! It should marvelously simplify the investigation of economic history and economic organization.

Seriously, we regret that Dr. Davenport did not wait a year or two before putting out this book. When a writer cites a family of yacht builders in which father, son, and grandson have designed and built cup-defenders, as a proof of the inheritance of specific mechanical ability, he has simply failed to think of the power of family interests and traditions, training, and above all of suggestion. No biologist should set his pen to eugenic paper until he has prayerfully brushed up his knowledge of modern genetic psychology and psychological sociology. He will then talk less glibly of the inheritance of specific mental abilities. By all means let us have all the light on heredity that scientific investigation, amply endowed, can give us, but in our enthusiasm in following out a new line of discovery let us not neglect to view scientifically *all* the factors that determine the character of the individual in society. A practically contemptuous attitude toward environmental influence, an ignoring of the tremendous power of "social heredity" and especially of the power of seemingly trivial suggestion on the young developing mind, cannot but injure, in the long run, the cause of racial improvement which Dr. Davenport has with such devotion and ability set himself to stimulate. These adverse criticisms do not denote any lack of appreciation of the fact that the author is doing hard pioneer work, and that in founding the Eugenics Record Office and in training eugenics investigators he is perhaps building for a social reform more lasting than are some to which both sociologists and economists are devoting their best energies.

Professor Kellicott's book is built on broader lines, in that he recognizes the at least temporary value of the work of the biometricians under the leadership of Karl Pearson. For a general, brief survey of the present relation of biology to sociology and eugenics

perhaps nothing better can be found. The author grants cordial recognition to the necessity of gathering data with regard to environmental as well as hereditary influence, but he, too, in spite of his broader horizon, falls more than once into the uncritical receptive attitude. For instance, he accepts without question Pearson's crude and palpably unscientific investigation into the inheritance of mental and moral characters, Galton's study of Royal Society fellows, and Schuster's study of Oxford class lists. Again, he betrays the biologist's human fallibility in his brief references to the increase of crime—which completely ignore the increasing complexity of society as a cause. So too in his discussion of the differential birth-rate (pp. 123 ff.), which may profitably be compared with Loria's paper above mentioned, he simply assumes uncritically that economic position and psychic ability are coterminous. And nowhere does he sufficiently point out the extreme difficulty of distinguishing between the effects of environment and heredity.

The Kallikak Family, by the director of the research laboratory of the Vineland (N. J.) Training School for Feeble-minded Girls and Boys, is a book of another type. What investigations such as those into the Jukes and Edwards families failed to do—segregate environmental and hereditary influences and demonstrate the heritability of mental defects—this monograph does, beyond possibility of reasonable doubt. Not only is the hereditary character of feeble-mindedness proved with practical conclusiveness, but its economic significance is set forth calmly and sanely and with rare impressiveness. Every economist should read this book, whether he is interested in a dream of a future race, perfect in beauty and holiness, or not.

The little book by La Reine Helen Baker is an essay on the ethics of eugenics. The author has some keen and sensible, some daring ideas, and is not without a fetching knack of expression which adds to the suggestive quality of the book.

It is impossible to do justice to Havelock Ellis' *The Task of Social Hygiene* in short space, inasmuch as the title is misleading and the book covers a variety of subjects from the emancipation of women in relation to romantic love to the problem of an international language. A better title for the book would have been

"the conservation and economy of human energy," for this unifying idea runs through all the essays—the liberation of human capacity under a system of rational morals looking toward the upbuilding of a new race and a new society. There is, perhaps, somewhat in the book that the reader with static and non-utilitarian notions of morality will recoil from, but no one can fail to be stimulated by a perusal of most of the chapters. The economist will find, in chapter 5, a welcome change from constant calamity-howling over the falling birth-rate, though he may think the author extreme in saying that large families "may probably be regarded, as Nacke suggests, as constituting a symptom of degeneration." Other chapters worthy of attention are those on the problem of sex hygiene (in which a specialist on the psychology of sex urges caution), on immorality and the law (in which he looks for little result from vice commissions and vice crusades that expect to solve the prostitution evil by legislation), on the war against war, and the final chapter on individualism and socialism. "The key to the situation," says the author, "is to be found in the counterbalancing tendency of individualism, and the eugenic guardianship of the race. . . . Through the slow growth of knowledge concerning hereditary conditions, by voluntary restraint, by the final disappearance of the lingering prejudice against the control of procreation, by sterilization in special cases, by methods of pressure which need not amount to actual compulsion, it will be possible to attain an increasingly firm grip on the evil elements of heredity."

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L'Emigration et ses Effets dans le Midi de l'Italie. By GIACOMO BARONE RUSSO. (Paris: Marcel Rivière et Cie. 1912. Pp. 225. 3.50 fr.)

In this interestingly written and carefully elaborated study, the author has presented a clear statement of the main causes which have led to the vast outward movement from Italy and of the most salient effects of this emigration upon the home country. According to Signor Russo, the primary impelling cause is economic. A large proportion of the emigrants (in Basilicata, 65 per cent) consists of peasants and agricultural laborers. Wages are low, ranging according to place and season from fifty cents to twenty-five and even twelve cents a day. "It is impossible to